

The Christopher R. Slezak First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund

Pursuant to Public Act 317 of 1969, as amended,
Section 405(8)(a)(b)(c) and (10)(a)(b)

Calendar Year 2022

Prepared by
Workers' Disability Compensation Agency
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The Workers' Disability Compensation Agency (WDCA) is pleased to present the 2022 annual report of the Christopher R. Slezak First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund (SFRPCF). This report is prepared in accordance with MCL 418.405(8) of the Workers' Disability Compensation Act, Act 317 of the Public Acts of 1969, as amended, and is submitted for your review.

The SFRPCF was created pursuant to Public Act 515 of 2014 and was established to provide weekly workers' compensation wage loss and medical benefits to qualified first responders that have developed certain cancers. The SFRPCF provides benefits in lieu of employer funded benefits to first responders that have been exposed to the hazards incidental to fire suppression, rescue, or emergency medical services during the performance of necessary job duties.

Legislation in 2021 renamed the SFRPCF "The Christopher R. Slezak First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund" and expanded the eligibility for benefits provided by the fund to include active and some former fire/crash rescue officers, part-time paid on-call and volunteer firefighters. Ovarian, breast and non HPV cervical cancers were added to the list of diagnosed illnesses presumed to be work-related. PA 117 of 2021 was given immediate effect on November 30th, 2021; PA 129 of 2021 was given immediate effect December 17, 2021.

If an eligible first responder is diagnosed with one or more of the specified conditions, the cancers are presumed to arise out of and in the course of their employment with respect to the claim only against the SFRPCF. The statutory presumption may be rebutted by scientific evidence that the first responder was a substantial and consistent user of cigarettes or other tobacco products within the 10 years immediately preceding the date of injury, and that this use was a significant factor in the cause, aggravation, or progression of cancer.

All claims were administered through a contract with Sedgwick from the period of January 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022. Effective November 1, 2022, all claims are administered through the Funds Administration. If a dispute should arise the SFRPCF is represented by the Attorney General. For the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, the SFRPCF received a total of 22 applications; 15 of the applications were approved, 4 were denied, and 3 pending a decision. We are presently paying wage loss and medical benefits on 39 claims.

During this reporting period, a total of \$1,294,126.94 was expended for claims and administration expenses. See the following breakdown:

Indemnity:	\$112,789.69
Medical/Loss Adjustment:	<u>\$957,993.14</u>
	\$1,070,782.83
Claims Admin Fees:	\$8,969.00
Staff Costs:	<u>\$214,375.11</u>
	\$223,344.11
Total Expenses:	\$1,294,126.94

The anticipated expenditures for claims expenses in next fiscal year is \$1,750,00.00. We will continue to incur costs for staff. In addition, we expect an increase in the number of applications received and claims expenses overall.

Based on our current funding the SFRPCF does not anticipate a funding shortfall this year.

Thank you for taking the time to review this report.